

Claims

1. A carton for a plurality of similar articles, such as bottles, arranged in rows wherein the carton is of a substantially tubular structure comprising a bottom panel, a first side
5 wall panel, a top panel, a second side wall panel and a means for at least partially closing the ends of the carton to prevent the articles from being undesirably dislodged, the carton further comprising an access means, integrally formed in the carton walls and being defined by a weakened line of severance, the weakened line of severance extending across a carton side wall along an axis of the tubular structure the access
10 means providing means for retaining the articles to prevent them from being inadvertently dislodged and further being structured and arranged such that the carton can be oriented to sit on either the bottom panel or one of its side panels whilst the articles are accessed through an opening formed when the dispensing feature is utilized in the other of its side wall panels.
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2. The carton of claim 1 wherein the articles are bottles and are disposed such that the bottom of the bottles abuts said bottom panel.
3. The carton of claim 1 wherein the weakened line of severance extends through the top
20 panel, first side panel and ends of said carton.
4. The carton of any preceding claim further comprising a hand-hole punch through means for providing easy access to the dispensing feature.
- 25 5. The carton of any preceding claim where in the bottom panel is larger than the top panel.
6. The carton of any preceding claim wherein the means for closing the ends of the cartons comprises four end flaps hinged to the top panel, first side panel, bottom panel
30 and second side panel.

7. The carton of claim 6 wherein end flaps hinged to the first and second side walls contain weakened lines of severance.
8. A blank for forming a carton for a plurality of similar articles, such as bottles,
5 arranged in rows wherein the carton is of a substantially tubular structure comprising a bottom panel, a first side wall panel, a top panel, a second side wall panel and a means for at least partially closing the ends of the carton to prevent the articles from being undesirably dislodged, the carton further comprising an access means, integrally formed in the carton walls and defined by a weakened line of severance, said access
10 means providing means for retaining the articles to prevent them from being inadvertently dislodged and further being structured and arranged such that the carton can be oriented to sit on either the bottom panel or one of its side panels whilst the articles are accessed through an opening formed when the dispensing feature is utilized in the other of its side wall panels.
- 15 9. A blank for forming the carton of claim 8 in which at least two adjacent panels contain transverse lines of weakness which are contiguous when the blank is formed into the carton.
- 20 10. The blank of claim 9 wherein the means for at least partially closing the ends of the carton includes at least one additional line of weakness which cooperates with the transverse lines of weakness to form the dispensing feature when the blank is formed into the carton.
- 25 11. A tubular carton having opposed end closure walls, wherein an article dispenser is provided by a removable portion defined by an endless tear line which includes a first segment extending across a top wall along the tubular axis, a second segment extending across a first side wall along the tubular axis and a pair of third segments formed respectively in the end closure walls to interconnect the first and second
30 segments to form the endless tear line.

12. The carton of claim 11 wherein each end closure wall includes a pair of upper and lower end flaps and a pair of side end flaps, wherein each third segment comprises an upper portion in the respective upper end flap and a lower portion in the side end flap that is hinged to the first side wall.

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13. The carton of claim 12 wherein each third segment further comprises an intermediate portion in the respective lower end flap and wherein the intermediate portion interconnects the upper and lower portions.

10 14. A blank to form the carton of claim 11 wherein a part of the first segment defines a tear initiation tab, and wherein each third segment extends downwardly from the top wall away from the first side wall so that an upper portion of each third segment adjoining the top wall is disposed at an obtuse angle with respect to the first segment.

15 15. A blank to form the carton of claim 1 in which at least two adjacent panels contain transverse lines of weakness which are contiguous when the blank is formed into the carton.

20 16. The blank of claim 8 wherein the means for at least partially closing the ends of the carton includes at least one additional line of weakness which cooperates with the transverse lines of weakness to form the dispensing feature when the blank is formed into the carton.